(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of the total estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of aircraft is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.

HIV screening before defence recruitment

†1686. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to undertake HIV screening test before recruitment in the Armed Froces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision for such test is being introduced before recruitment in other Government services apart from Armed Forces; and

(d) if so, the services included under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the Armed Forces carry out thorough medical test of the candidates to rule out a number of known infectious diseases before recruitment. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) falls under the category of infectious diseases. Accordingly, a case for introduction of pre-recruitment HIV test in the Armed Forces has been moved by the DGAFMS. No final decision in the matter has been taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of fighter aircrafts from Russia

1687. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.